

Approved 06/12/2014

Exeter Fire District

(May 8, 2014)

Call to Order

District Chairman Scott Kettelle called the May 8th meeting of the Exeter Fire District to order at 7:03pm. Commissioners Scott Kettelle, Kevin Rooney, Patricia Whitford, Larry Aker, Andrew Slater, Charlie Franklin and Bill Nievera were present. Ms. Pauline MacDonald, district treasurer, was also present as was Peter Ruggiero, district attorney. There were 9 members of the public in attendance.

Election of Officers

In accordance with Art. VI, Sect. 2 of the organization's bylaws, the following names were placed into nomination and voted upon:

Ms. Whitford nominated (Mr. Slater second) Mr. Scott Kettelle for the position of Chairman.

Ms. Whitford nominated (Mr. Slater second) Mr. Kevin Rooney for the position of Vice – Chairman.

Ms. Whitford nominated (Mr. Slater second) Mr. Bill Nievera for the position of Clerk.

Ms. Whitford nominated (Mr. Slater second) Ms. Pauline MacDonald for the position of Treasurer.

Ms. Whitford moved (Mr. Slater second) the election of the above slate of officers. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no comment from the public.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. MacDonald reported a beginning balance of \$416,037.32 as of March 26, 2014. Activity within the account brings the balance to \$437,519.36 as of April 24, 2014. Mr. Nievera has compared the report of the treasurer with the bank statement and is satisfied with its accuracy. Mr. Nievera moved (Ms. Whitford second) accepting the report of the treasurer. The motion carried unanimously.

Previous Month's Minutes

Ms. Whitford moved (Mr. Franklin second) acceptance of both sets of minutes presented by Mr. Nievera. The minutes were for the business meetings of February 27th and April 17th. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Nievera will re-circulate these minutes and file them with the Secretary of State's office at his earliest convenience.

Communications

Mr. Nievera reported that all operational mail has been given to the treasurer for her action.

Old Business

Ms. MacDonald reported as to the collections to date. Mr. Nievera reported on the status of abatements indicating that they were less than anticipated. He also gave a brief report on the upcoming tax sale. The sale will be held on June 6th of this year. Ms. McMahon, district collector, has whittled the tax sale list down to 19 names, from about 75 names. Ms. Whitford read the section of law (RIGL 44-7-11) Municipal Lien Certificates and stated that she feels we are ignoring a revenue stream by not requesting Municipal Lien Certificates (MLC's) from attorney's offices. Mr. Nievera offered that this topic was discussed several years ago and because we were a part time office and our collector did not have the access to the incoming mail on a daily basis, as does the town collector, we would not require MLC's to be filed by attorneys. Mr. Kettelle suggested that with the EMS service just starting, the MLC issue be discussed at a later date. Mr. Aker moved (Mr. Rooney second) postponing the MLS discussion for two months. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Nievera notified the commissioners that the town collector is considering changing the due dates for the town tax collections. The changes have been approved by the Town Council and need only FTM approval. Mr. Nievera sees a fair amount of confusion and recommends we remain as we are on the collection dates. Ms. Whitford reminded the commissioners that our tax collection schedule had been voted upon and approved at our annual meeting.

New Business

Mr. Rooney reported that we have ads ready to run in the RI Central newspapers. A short discussion centered on the length of time and which media to use. It was decided that the ads would run for one Thursday (05/15) in the RI Central papers and this coming Sunday (05/11) in the Providence Journal. Mr. Nievera will co-ordinate this placement of ads. The deadline for response will be 05/21. He will also post the ads in his regular places around town as well as e-mailing them to Mr. Kettelle for further delivery to the RI Fire Marshal's office and the DOH.

Mr. Rooney also met with JoAnne at USDA. She is going to push our application.

Ms. Whitford has been in contact with Ms. Rumsey and Mr. Valencia. They have introduced our enabling legislation (for rescue service) in the General Assembly.

Mr. Kettelle has filed our license requirements. He has also met with VFIS and has started the process of amending our policies to include an EMS service.

Mr. Slater has looked over the rescue vehicles and thinks that R1 should be run more. Mr. Caito believes that R1 is a good candidate to have its box put on a new chassis.

Mr. Nievera has been respectfully denied access to the Rescue records that he was to inspect. Chief Kliever informed Mr. Nievera of the lawyer's decision. Access will be granted at a later date. He did

however, gain access to R1 and did a complete inventory of its contents. He will, in the near future, inventory R2 and the bldg. supplies.

Chief Chamberlain reported that his station had recently graduated four firefighters from the Fire Fighter 1001 class. He also believes that preference should be given to current volunteers in the staffing the new EMS service. To which, Mr. Rooney added that we will be seeking the best candidates available.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Exeter Fire District will be held on Thursday, 06/12/2014. The meeting will be held in the program room of the Public Library and will begin at 7:00pm.

Executive Session

Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-4 & 5(a) (2) Potential Litigation (Dissolution of rescue service company) Mr. Aker moved (Mr. Rooney second) entering into executive session. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The board of commissioners entered into executive

session at 7:56pm.

Ms. Whitford moved (Mr. Aker second) sealing the minutes of the executive session. On a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Aker second) returning to open session at 8:58pm. On a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Kettelle announced that there were no votes taken in the executive session.

Mr. Rooney moved (Ms. Whitford second) setting a meeting with Ms. Caito, and Mr. D'Orsi. This meeting should also include Mr. Ruggiero, Ms. Whitford and Mr. Aker. The results of that meeting will be shared with the board of commissioners during a special meeting on 05/22.

After a short discussion it was decided that Ms. Whitford would research the opening of an account for the fire district EMS service with Mr. D'Orsi, Mr. Kettelle and Mr. Franklin as signatories.

Adjournment

Mr. Aker moved (Ms. Whitford second) adjournment at 9:05pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Nievera, Clerk

Exeter Fire District